

**Remarks at the IBM Centennial Celebration  
June 16, 2011 at the Copernicus Science Center**

Dziękuję. Jest mi bardzo miło, że mogę jako ambasador USA świętować w Polsce jubileusz tak wspaniałej amerykańskiej firmy – IBM. Szczególnie, że mieszkałem w Poughkeepsie, znanego jako siedziba firmy. Od stu lat IBM, dzięki innowacji, opiece nad klientem i strategiami rozwoju zmienia świat na bardziej inteligentny – bardziej *smart*.

[Thank you. As a temporary resident of Poughkeepsie, NY, the traditional headquarters of IBM, it is a pleasure for me as the U.S. Ambassador to participate in this celebration of IBM, a great American company. IBM marks its first 100 years of innovation, client service, and progress towards a *smarter planet*.]

## IBM Centennial Celebration

Very few companies can point to the breath of achievements like IBM's. *Fortune* magazine ranks IBM number one for developing leadership. IBM is one of the most elite companies in the world in categories such as the most environmentally sensitive, innovation, and just plain the most admired.

In Poland, it constantly ranks at the top of companies where people want to work. IBM holds more patents than any other U.S.-based technology company. And IBM employees have been recognized with five Nobel Prizes.

IBM also does well by doing good. IBM is a leader in Corporate Social Responsibility, in Poland and globally.

In fact, probably the most visible expression of IBM Centennial celebrations will be its global Celebration of Service.

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More than 400,000 IBMers, retirees and business partners are being encouraged to devote at least eight hours of service to their communities. In a variety of volunteer activities, the IBMers will apply their considerable expertise to civic challenges and local needs.

As is often the case, IBM's Chairman and CEO Sam Palmisano is leading the way. He has just spent the day at schools in his hometown of Baltimore, Maryland. Sam spoke in several of the city's schools to help build interest in, and capabilities for, science and technology education.

IBM will be making \$12 million in grants available to support and recognize IBMers in their service initiatives. These include 100 Catalyst grants of \$10,000 each and ten \$100,000 Centennial grants for the schools and organization where

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IBMers volunteer. The volunteers will compete for this funding with the best Smarter Planet-level projects and other innovative ideas.

In Poland, under the leadership of Anna Sienko, IBM has launched Celebration of Service activities in Warsaw and Wroclaw. Mentoring women leaders of non-government organizations, knowledge volunteering, and blood and bone marrow donations are some examples. IBM works with the Ministry of Education on educational programs, including KidSmart Early Learning.

This program integrates interactive teaching and learning activities into the pre-kindergarten curricula using the latest technology. Last year IBM donated over 260 KidSmart units to Polish preschools and provided training programs for over 600 teachers.

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Another example of IBM's commitment to public education is called MentorPlace. This is a corporate volunteer program where IBM employees provide Polish students with online academic assistance and career counseling while letting the kids know that adults do care about their issues and concerns. IBM Poland volunteers are conducting the MentorPlace program for a girl's orphanage and also for Polish high school students.

But these projects are illustrative rather than an exhaustive list of the many worthwhile projects IBM Poland supports. To give another example, IBM Poland demonstrated community leadership in the promotion of human rights and tolerance with its corporate sponsorship of Europride 2010, through the initiative of Andreas Citak. And I was pleased to host Andreas

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and Claudia Woody from IBM, as well other sponsors of the event, at my residence.

So as we celebrate the first 100 years of IBM's extraordinary business achievements let us also pay tribute to their leadership in being a responsible member of the Polish and global communities in which this great American company operates.

Gratulacje! Następných stu lat! Życzę kolejnych sukcesów.

[Thank you.]